

## **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR QUICKLY JOINING AN ONLINE GAME BEING PLAYED BY A FRIEND**

### **Abstract of the Disclosure**

The user who has signed onto an online gaming service can be immediately  
5 joined in playing an instance of a game with a friend appearing in the user's friends list.  
After signing onto the online service, the user has the option to select "Quick Join,"  
causing the online service to immediately join the user in an instance of the game having  
an opening for the user and also being played by the first player found in the friends list.  
Alternatively, the user may selectively display the friends list and select a specific friend  
10 who is online, before activating the Quick Join option to immediately join in playing  
within the friend's game. Depending upon the type of game, the user will either be  
immediately placed into play or joined to a portion of the game that enables the user to  
select options, so that the user can participate in the next session of the game.